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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention
of Discrimination and
Protection of Minorities
Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 11 (c) (i)

REVIEW OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN FIELDS WITH WHICH THE SUB-COMMISSION HAS BEEN OR MAY BE CONCERNED

REVIEW OF ISSUES NOT PREVIOUSLY THE SUBJECT OF STUDIES BUT WHICH THE SUB-COMMISSION HAD DECIDED TO EXAMINE

IMPLICATIONS OF HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Bossuyt, Mr. Boutkevitch, Ms. Daes, Mr. Eide, Ms. Ferero Ucros, Mr. Guissé, Ms. Gwanmesia, Mr. Joinet, Mr. Maxim, Ms. Palley and Ms. Warzazi: draft resolution

1997/... Adverse consequences of economic sanctions on the enjoyment of human rights

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Affirming the need to respect the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and the relevant provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the two Additional Protocols thereto,

Concerned about the adverse consequences of economic sanctions, such as embargoes and blockades, on human rights,

Recognizing that such coercive measures should be adopted by or under the authority of the Security Council only in accordance with Article 24 and Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

Convinced that such measures should always be limited in time,

Aware, moreover, that such measures most seriously affect the innocent population, in particular the weak and the poor, especially women and children,

Concerned that such measures have a tendency to aggravate the imbalances in income distribution already present in the countries concerned,

Noting that in many cases they may give rise to smuggling and trafficking which greatly benefit mala fide businesspeople often close to the oppressive government authorities which are insensitive to the suffering of their people,

1. Appeals to all States concerned to reconsider their adoption of or support for such measures, even if the legitimate goals pursued are not yet attained, if after a reasonable period they appear not to be bringing about the desired changes in policy, regardless of the nature of that policy;

2. Decides to consider the adverse consequences of economic sanctions on human rights at its fiftieth session under the agenda item entitled "Implications of humanitarian activities on the enjoyment of human rights".